

FEELING CITY'S PULSE-BEATS AT STREET CORNERS

Varied Types of New York's Street Intersections Where Tiny Dramas Are Enacted.

War brought new incidents into the scene where I was making the sketches for this article, but the background, or, perhaps, better called the backdrop, remained exactly as it had been for a dozen or more years before. When I started to make these sketches it was merely with the idea of delineating typical street corners of New York, with very little regard for the things that happened in the foreground. It was not till the pages of my book recorded a dozen odd corners that it occurred to me that the drawings were nothing more or less than the plans for a stage setting wherein you enact the routine of your everyday life, reflecting into these places the pulse-beats of your city, your country and the world. So, barometer-like, when war swept across the other hemisphere, your street corners recorded the fact by the ever increasing sale of papers at the little newsstands, by excited, earnest groups of countrymen that gathered here now and then, and by other incidents that I shall narrate as the story proceeds.

Taking all the corners that I have seen and passed, there is probably none other in all the collection that is as distinctly typical as the saloon corner, but it has been repeated so often, with only a little variation in form, one way or the other, that New Yorkers probably have taken it for granted that a thirst emporium could not possibly assume any other form and still succeed by reason of its outward appearance.

As a starter, there must be plate glass, much plate glass of various rectangular sizes, each piece encompassed with much wood framing, until the whole front is more or less suggestive of a piece of ground intended for intensive farming. Jutting above this checkerboard of windows and transoms, quite ledge-like in its appearance, is

a bulky wood cornice, cropping with many mouldings, scroll decorations and

gilded trimmings. There can be no getting around or past this description. If it doesn't have some of these symptoms it isn't a saloon. Yet, with all its gliding and scrollwork and cornices it does not in itself constitute a typical corner, for it is a series of things, each of which contributes its mite, that goes to make this little piece of city individuality. If it were not for the bootblack stand and the newsdealer and the fruit man's place of business, that cluster around the corner, the whole scene might perhaps be laid in Milwaukee, or even in Camden, N. J.

Structurally speaking, these last named things are afterthoughts of after builders, tacked on at random as the occasion demanded; but, otherwise, they are generally quite in accord with the building at whose side they nestle and to whatever of age, or decay, or newness, or polish there is in the main structure they respond in the same octave.

There are probably a dozen types each of fruitstands, bootblacks' quarters and newsstands, some gaudy and shining, with new varnish and quite immaculate under new awnings; others



19TH STREET CORNER AT NINTH AVENUE.

electric light bulbs, while perched more dingy, where time has marred above it all is a black background sign the paint, put patches in the canvas



CORNER AT NINTH AVENUE AND 23D STREET. AUSTRIANS IN THE FOREGROUND WAITING FOR A CAR TO CONVEY THEM TO AN OUTGOING STEAMER.

and built stray additions, but, through a matter of chance, perhaps, it always seems as if the little bazaars that stand at each corner had been specially chosen for the group of which they are a part. It even seems impossible at times that there can be another stand in all the city that could fill the same place so successfully as the one that is there at the present time.

In order to acquire the degree of "typical corner" the main structure in the immediate vicinity need not necessarily be a saloon, for in no other city that I know of at present can a street name post and a Street Department hydrant of this type be found, at least, not in combination with an unlimited array of iron fence, such as fronts the houses in this neighborhood.

Then there is the elevated corner, the subway station and the corners in downtown New York among the skyscrapers, and there are the four corners wherever your streets meet that are all interesting and probably quite representative of some stages of the life of the city if you only care to look at them in that way, but wherever you

things, as does the sketch made at the corner of Ninth Avenue and Nineteenth Street, but this is as surely as New Yorkish as the rest, for in no other city that I know of at present can a street name post and a Street Department hydrant of this type be found, at least, not in combination with an unlimited array of iron fence, such as fronts the houses in this neighborhood.

The new plans are also said to include the sale of the greater part of the invested surplus of the proceeds among the stockholders. This surplus represents approximately \$1,000,000, and will be converted ultimately into cash, the stockholders sharing proportionately as to their holdings. The capital stock of the company is only \$300,000, so that the stockholders will fare nicely in the distribution.

The office of producer has been vacant for a year.

THE NEW DOLL COMPANY, INC., manufacturers of dolls, has filed a petition with liabilities of \$15,250, amounts \$2,100, and cash \$1,000.

SACRAMENTO.—The Empress, Miss Mary, 21 Union St., 2d floor.

SAULT ST. MARIE.—Prairie Rose, Mrs. W. H. Miller, 100 W. 2d floor.

ST. LOUIS.—Antique Curio Co., Mr. J. H. Hayes, 100 W. 2d floor.

OMAHA.—L. Brandt & Sons, H. Bremer, carriages and rugs; Mr. Cummings, jewelry, 1200 Broad, 2d floor.

HUNTINGTON, IND.—H. Arnold & Well, 100 W. 2d floor.

INDIANAPOLIS.—H. W. Watson Co., 116 W. 2d floor.

ATLANTA.—Faxon & Stokes, L. F. Herk, 116 W. 2d floor.

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ATLANTA</b